

AN EARLIER NAME FOR LUDWIGIA NATANS  
(ONAGRACEAE)

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John Reinhold Forster's "Flora Americae Septentrionalis, or a Catalogue of the Plants of North America . . . .," published in London in 1771, has in general been neglected. It is an enumeration in the form of a list with English names, localities, references, and occasionally economic notes on the plants known from North America up to that time, arranged according to the Linnaean system. It is not an original work but rather a compilation based on the published works of other students. Thus, Forster himself evidently considered its greatest utility to serve as a kind of index to the important early works of Kalm, Gronovius, Sloane, and Catesby.

Forster did, however, propose new binomials for a few species described in the second edition of Gronovius' *Flora Virginica* (1762), a work which did not adopt Linnaeus' binomial system of nomenclature. One such is Gronovius' "*Ludwigia caule repente, foliis obverse ovatis petiolatis*" (p. 20), for which Forster (1771, p. 6) proposed "*Ludwigia repens?* N. S.," quoting Gronovius' description in full. It is often possible to typify Gronovius' names with collections made by Clayton. Clayton's specimen of this particular species, in the herbarium of the British Museum (Natural History), is *Ludwigia palustris* (L.) Ell. It cannot be taken as a type, however, as the description ("floribus . . . dilute luteis tetrapetalis fugacissimis . . .") can refer only to the species currently known as *Ludwigia natans* Ell. (1821). Clayton's mention of petals probably accounts for Linnaeus' not identifying this species with his *Isnardia palustris* [= *Ludwigia palustris* (L.) Ell.], as subsequent authors have incorrectly done (cf. Fernald, *Rhodora* 37: 175-177. 1935). Thus, the partial synonymy for this species is as follows:  
***Ludwigia repens* Forst., Fl. Amer. Sept. 6, 1771.**

*Ludwigia natans* Ell., *Sketch Bot. S. C. & Ga.* 1: 581. 1821.

*Ludwigia repens* Forst. is listed in the *Index Kewensis* (2: 123. 1895), but the page reference is given incorrectly as "22." Five other new species are proposed by Forster in his work. Two on p. 7 are published under the genus "*Menandra*" and are therefore invalid, "*Menandra*" itself never having been published. A third proposed species, "*Rhamnus volubilis*," p. 11, is a *nomen nudum*. The remaining two, *Potamogeton rotundifolium* and *P. oblongifolium*, p. 7, are validly published and should, therefore, be taken up by the *Index Kewensis* and similar works. Gronovius' brief descriptions (Fl. Virg., ed. 2, 23. 1771) might make it possible for them to be identified. Unfortunately, there is apparently no existing herbarium material that can be identified with these names.

This work has been supported by National Science Foundation Grant GB-141.

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### MOUNTAIN FLOWERS OF NEW ENGLAND<sup>1</sup>

This is an important illustrated and convenient guide to the alpine plants of New England and New York.

The excellent illustrated series of articles by Stuart K. Harris, *Plants of the Presidential Range*, that appeared in *Appalachia* at intervals during the years 1940-1949 provided the principal basis for the present book. The area covered being somewhat larger in the present work, it has been necessary to define the boundaries of the alpine area very carefully; also, it was necessary to provide a complete and accurately selected list of species and to be as precise as possible about habitats. In these matters, the help of Frederic Steele has been particularly valuable.

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<sup>1</sup>Mountain Flowers of New England, by Stuart K. Harris, Jean Langenheim, Frederic L. Steele, and Miriam Underhill. Appalachian Mountain Club, Boston, Mass. 150 pp. April 1964. \$4.50.